Proposal to start air service from Pithoragarh

156. SHRI RAMNATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start Air Service, specially 16 seater air craft from Pithoragarh in Kumaon region;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the said air service will link Nepal with Pithoragarh?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) At present because of operational/commercial considerations there is no proposal to start air services from Pithoragarh.

Loss to Air India

157. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI JALALUDDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air India incurred a provisional loss of Rs. 19.70 crores during April-December, 1994 against a profit of Rs. 200 crore in the previous year; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons for the poor preformance?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) During April-December, 1994 Air India earned an estimated profit of Rs. 6.88 crores as against a profit of Rs. 177.42 crores during coresponding period last year. The decline in profitability as compared to that of the previous year, is due to the—

(i) impact of the depreciation and interest of the B747-400 aircraft acquired during 1993-94;

(ii) decline in yields by around 10 per cent; and

(iii) impact of cancellations of several flights in the wake of plague outbreak during 1994.

Boost to conventional Tourist

158. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any attempts to give a boost to conventional tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to construct convention halls in business and tourist centres?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM: (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The Department of Tourism in its National Action Plan has given special emphasis and significance to Convention Tourism and has stated that it would endeavour to set up a Convention City with facilities of international standards. In order to promote India more effectively as a Convention Desination, the Department of Tourism sponsored setting up of India Convention Promotion Bureau (ICPB), which has members comprising of Department of Tourism, National Airlines leading Hotel Chains, Tour Operators, Travel Agents and State Tourism Development Corporations. The India Convention Promotion Bureau complies information on the Association Convention market for sales and marketing activities. Further, it promotes and facilitates conferences to India by providing assistance and expertise in the preparation of bid documents, promotional material and through other outlets for promotion including Government of